

91RF4377

0019659



000024869

DIST	U	M	E
GAME, TH	X		
RO			
UCHER DW			
SJG			
CO JE	X		
CHPERA DW			
CHRIS LR			
DIKOR FJ			
RANCIS GE	X		
DOOWIN R	X		
IFALY TJ			
DEKER EH			
REIS JP			
KEELE PB			
KEISH JM			
IRBY WA			
KIRKEBO JA			
EF EM			
MAJESTIC JB			
MATHEWS TA			
MEURRENS BE			
MORGAN RV	X		
MORTH P			
PALMER LA			
POTTER GL	X		
PIZZUTO VM			
THOADES JJ	X		
WHEELER BE			
WILSON ER			
WIE FJS			
WILSON RB			
WILLIAMS RE			
WILSON JM			
WOLGER	X		
WELJO	X		
WELLS SA	X	X	
WELLS SD	X		
WELLS ME	X		
TAMER RE	X		
DUNSTON LA	X		
SMITH	X	X	
SWIN TERRY	X		
ORRES CONTROL	X	X	
HAFFIC			

CLASSIFICATION

UCNI		
UNCLASSIFIED	X	X
CONFIDENTIAL		
SECRET		

AUTHORIZED CLASSIFIER
SIGNATURE

DATE 7-16-91

IN REPLY TO

41-2901012

C#
TR APPROVALS

INITIALS

29 Rev 3911

EG&G ROCKY FLATS

EG&G ROCKY FLATS, INC

ROCKY FLATS PLANT P O BOX 464 GOLDEN COLORADO 80402-0464 (303) 966 7000

July 26, 1991

91-RF 4377

Robert M Nelson, Jr
Manager
DOE, RFO

Attn David P Simonson

DELAY IN REANALYSIS OF SAMPLES FROM WALNUT CREEK AT INDIANA AND
POND C-1 - JMK-0357-91This letter is in response to your correspondence on the same subject
(Ref WMED JR 5106)

The water samples in question were collected from Walnut Creek and Pond C-1 during the period April 8 through April 12, 1991. Radiochemical analysis showed elevated levels of plutonium in the samples. These results were reported to DOE in accordance with Rocky Flats Plant (RFP) procedures. In addition, the Clean Water Act Division (CWAD) requested reanalysis of the samples to confirm the results. When laboratory results had not been received by the week of June 17, it was discovered that the reanalysis had not begun. This was corrected immediately and data were received the following week.

A review of the circumstances shows that the delay in initiating chemical analysis was caused by a miscommunication within the laboratory. A back-up chemist initiated paperwork for reanalysis as directed and identified the samples as reruns. However, no indication was made that the samples were a high priority and this information was not transmitted to the chemist directly responsible, following his return from vacation. As a result, the samples were not given the proper priority as they entered the queue for batching and analysis.

It has been subsequently discovered that the results originally reported were in error. The sample volume was entered into the computer incorrectly and the plutonium values were calculated based on one liter samples rather than five liter samples.

As we are aware of the importance of maintaining credibility with the regulators and the public, steps have been taken in the laboratory sample management system to prevent future incidents of this type. Water samples submitted for reanalysis to confirm abnormal results will be identified immediately and a "RUSH" indication will be made on the sample identification sheet. In addition, the existing priority system for sample analysis has been modified to include provisions for these samples. Analysis of samples in this category will be given the highest priority, followed by current month samples and last, backlog samples.

The Environmental Management (EM) organization is taking other actions that are designed to improve the overall sampling and analysis system for water samples. A subgroup is being formed within EM to more closely coordinate and monitor the progress of regulatory water samples through the onsite laboratories.

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION
REVIEW WAIVER PER
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

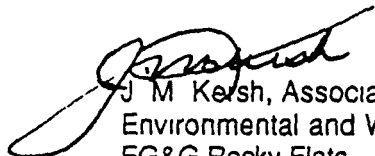
ADMIN RECORD

A 0006-000403

R M Nelson, Jr
July 26, 1991
91-RF-4377
Page 2

The group will work proactively to give early identification of problems to ensure analyses are performed on schedule through detailed tracking of water samples, from collection through issuance of the final laboratory report. Any reanalysis required to confirm an out-of-specification condition will be given special consideration in tracking. The cause of the out-of-specification conditions will be investigated.

Through improvements to existing systems, including sample identification and priority assignment, improved tracking and working proactively to prevent problems, we are confident that delays in obtaining analysis results will be eliminated. We are aware of the impact this type of incident has with our regulators and the public, and we anticipate these measures will ensure that such a situation will not occur again in the future.



J. M. Kersh, Associate General Manager
Environmental and Waste Management
EG&G Rocky Flats

SAC:fm

Orig and 1 cc - R M Nelson, Jr